

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

On page 1, beginning at line 5 through line 21, please amend the specification as follows.

This application is a continuation in part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/850,248, **filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,317,775 issued November 13, 2001 and entitled** SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING LOAD OVER MULTIPLE SERVERS AT AN INTERNET SITE, by Brantley W. Coile, et al. and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/850,730, **filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,061,349 issued May 9, 2000 and entitled** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING MULTIPLE IP ADDRESSES ON MULTIPLE PORTS, by Brantley W. Coile, et al. and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/850,836, **filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,104,717 issued August 15, 2000 and entitled** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING BACKUP MACHINES FOR IMPLEMENTING MULTIPLE IP ADDRESSES ON MULTIPLE PORTS, by Brantley W. Coile, et al. and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/918,024, **filed August 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,108,300 issued August 22, 2000 and entitled** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSPARENTLY PROVIDING A FAILOVER NETWORK DEVICE, by Brantley W. Coile, et al. and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/920,211, **filed August 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,989,060 issued November 23, 1999 and entitled** A BACKUP NETWORK DEVICE VIA A FAILOVER CABLE, by Brantley W. Coile, et al. which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

This application is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/107,244, **filed June 30, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,324,177 issued November 27, 2001 and entitled** LOAD BALANCING BASED ON CLIENT IP ADDRESS, by Richard A. Howes, et al. and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/107,238, **filed June 30, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,445,704 issued September 3, 2002 and entitled** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIRTUALIZING A LOCALLY INITIATED OUTBOUND CONNECTION FROM A CONNECTION MANAGER, ~~both filed June 30, 1998,~~ which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

On page 2, beginning at line 13 through line 18, please amend the specification as follows:

A Local Director connection manager that manages connections from remote clients to a local group of web servers is described in U.S. Patent ~~Applications Nos.~~ Application No. 08/850,248, filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,317,775 issued November 13, 2001; U.S. Patent Application No. 08/850,730, filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,061,349 issued May 9, 2000; U.S. Patent Application No. 08/850,836, filed May 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,104,717 issued August 15, 2000; U.S. Patent Application No. 08/918,024, filed August 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,108,300 issued August 22, 2000; and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/920,211, filed August 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,989,060 issued November 23, 1999, which were previously incorporated by reference for all purposes.

On page 4, beginning at line 1 through line 13, please amend the specification as follows.

Because the Local Director often functions as a single connection point or gateway to a group of servers that function as web servers that implement a large number of virtual servers having virtual IP addresses, the Local Director is potentially a single point of failure that could completely knock out all of the websites corresponding to virtual IP addresses served by the Local Director. Since this is undesirable, it is important that a standby or backup Local director be provided to handle connections when the primary or active Local Director fails. A method for detecting failure of a Local Director and activating a backup Local Director to handle connections is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/918,024, filed August 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,108,300 issued August 22, 2000 which was previously incorporated by reference. Two IP addresses, an active IP address and a failover IP address, are provided. When failure of the active Local Director is detected by a standby Local Director, then the standby Local Director assumes the active IP address and begins handling connections.

On page 17, beginning at line 18 through page 18, line 15, please amend the specification as follows.

FIGURE 3B is a block diagram illustrating the data structure of a physical machine object 318. Physical machine object 318 ~~316~~ is used to store information related to a particular physical machine that is selected to serve connections to certain virtual machines. Physical machine object 316 contains a pointer 320 to the next physical machine object which facilitates searching among the physical machine objects. Physical machine object 316 also contains the real IP address 321 of the physical machine which it represents. A variable 322 stores the state (for example, in service or failed) of the physical machine and a variable 324 stores the number of ditched connections to the physical machine. Ditched connections are connections that are not successfully made after a number of ~~resend~~ resends of a SYN request. A variable 326 stores the connection failure threshold that determines the number of ditched connections required to fail the machine and a pointer 328 points to a standby machine. A port variable 330 stores a port number which indicates whether physical machine object 320 corresponds to an individual port on a machine. If port variable 330 is zero, then physical machine object 320 corresponds to all ports of a physical machine. Any other number is interpreted as a port number that the physical machine object ~~represents.~~ represents. Also, the physical machine object includes a connection counter 332 used to count the number of connections to the virtual machine for the purpose of load balancing.